C16 Rec'd PCT/PTO SEP 2 8 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

KIUCHI et al.

**Group Art Unit:** 

Serial No.: New Application

Examiner:

Filed: September 28, 2001

Docket No. P107242-00023

For:

POLISHING APPARATUS AND METHOD

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

September 28, 2001

Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to the examination of this application, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel original claims 1-31 and add the following claims.

32. (Added) A polishing apparatus comprising:

a polishing table; and

a work holding plate,

wherein a work held on the work holding plate is polished supplying a polishing agent solution, and in polishing action, an amount of deformation of the polishing table in a direction normal to an upper surface thereof and/or an amount of deformation of the work holding plate in a direction normal to a work holding surface thereof is restricted to 100 µm or less.